

The Illinois Department on Aging

The Colbert Consent Decree

Frequently Asked Questions

Respect for yesterday. Support for today. Hope for tomorrow.

What is the Colbert Consent Decree?

With nearly 20,000 Class Members, the Colbert Consent Decree is the largest of three settled Olmstead Decision related decrees in Illinois. The *Colbert v. Quinn* lawsuit alleged that individuals are being unnecessarily segregated and institutionalized in nursing facilities in Cook County in violation of the ADA and Rehabilitation Act. Through the decree the State has agreed to provide the necessary supports and services to enable Class Members to live in the most integrated community settings appropriate to their needs.

Who are Colbert Class Members?

Colbert Class Members are Medicaid eligible adult residents with disabilities residing in long term care facilities, also known as nursing homes, in Cook County Illinois.

How does it work?

Once referred, the Colbert Class Member will first be asked to participate in an interview and healthcare evaluation. Following the evaluation the Class Member will be referred to an agency that will assist with finding housing and also be there to assist with the transition. Finally, the necessary services and supports will be arranged for the Class Member to live successfully and independently in the community, with frequent follow-up visits scheduled to ensure the Class Member's health and well-being.

What Services and Supports are provided?

Colbert Class Members have many services and supports available to them including Home and Community-based services, community mental health services, rental subsidy assistance, housing location services, and assistance with security deposits, furnishings and moving expenses.

What Housing Choices Are Available?

Class Members will be assigned to a housing location specialist to assist with locating a home in a location of their choice. Options for housing include senior buildings, apartments with private landlords available on the open market, and Supportive Living Facilities (SLFs),

How Will the Rent be Paid?

Colbert Class Members are eligible for a Colbert Bridge Rental Subsidy. Class Members will pay 30% of their income towards rent and the subsidy will pay the remainder of the rent. The Bridge Subsidy is designed to bridge the gap between transition into community living and the time it takes to secure a permanent rental subsidy (e.g. Section 8 Voucher). Transition assistance funds are also available.

How Can I Participate?

To participate in the Colbert Consent Decree a referral is required. To access the online referral site, please visit www.mfp.illinois.gov/colbert.html or call the Colbert Informational Line at (800) 252-8966 for assistance in completing an online referral. A referral form can also be requested from the Senior Helpline to be mailed to:

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Bureau of Long Term Care Rebalancing
Bloom Building 2nd Floor
201 S. Grand Ave. E
Springfield, IL 62764

The Illinois Department on Aging, in partnership with the Departments of HealthCare and Family Services, Human Services, Public Health and the Illinois Housing Development Authority, are working to increase the use of home and community-based services for individuals who reside in nursing homes and are in need of long-term care.